



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**MAY 17, 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SIX INDICTED IN JASPER COUNTY METH CONSPIRACY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that six defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury for conspiring to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine in Jasper County, Mo.

**Manuel Villareal-Amarillas**, 46, **Olegario Villareal**, 24, and **Juan H. Gonzalez**, 21, addressess unknown, **Brian C. Valentine**, 34, of Seneca, Mo., and **Mark Walker**, 43, and **Melanie Fortner**, 38, both of Joplin, Mo., were charged in a 15-count indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury on May 6, 2004, in Springfield. That indictment was unsealed and made public upon the arrest and initial appearance in court of **Villareal-Amarillas**, **Gonzalez**, **Walker** and **Fortner** last week. **Villareal** and **Valentine** are in state custody on other charges.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all the defendants conspired to distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between February 2004 and May 6, 2004, in Jasper County.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Valentine** possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine on Feb. 13, 2004, in Jasper County.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Gonzalez** possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine on Feb. 14, 2004, in Jasper County.

Count Four of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Gonzalez** to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy, including approximately \$17,630 seized from him on Feb. 14, 2004.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Valentine** possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine again on Feb. 29, 2004, in Jasper County.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Valentine** possessed with intent to

distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on March 11, 2004, in Jasper County.

Count Seven of the federal indictment alleges that **Villareal-Amarillas** was in possession of a firearm during the conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for a person to possess a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. **Villareal-Amarillas** was in possession of a Colt Combat Commander .45 caliber pistol on March 17, 2004, in Newton County, Mo., the indictment alleges.

Count Eight of the federal indictment alleges that **Villareal-Amarillas** also was an illegal alien in possession of a firearm on March 17, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any illegal alien to possess a firearm in the United States.

Count Nine of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Villareal-Amarillas** to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy, including \$78,870 seized from him on March 17, 2004.

Count Ten of the federal indictment alleges that **Walker** and **Fortner** possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine on March 17, 2004, in Newton County.

Count Eleven of the federal indictment alleges that **Villareal-Amarillas** illegally re-entered the United States after having been deported for illegal possession of a controlled substance for sale.

Count Twelve of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Gonzalez** to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy, including \$9,700 seized from him on March 23, 2004.

Count Thirteen of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require **Gonzalez** to forfeit any proceeds derived as a result of the methamphetamine conspiracy, including \$1,226 seized from him on April 2, 2004.

Count Fourteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Walker** and **Fortner** possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine on April 15, 2004, in Newton County.

Count Fifteen of the federal indictment alleges that **Villareal** possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine on April 15, 2004, in Newton County.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Robyn McKee and David P. Rush. It was investigated by the Jasper County, Mo., Drug Task Force, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Newton County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the

Joplin, Mo., Police Department, the Jasper County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Barton County, Mo., Sheriff's Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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